

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 /126 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT:HCLARKE:LPP
APPROVED BY EB/ITP:WBARRACLOUGH
STR:ELAPP
L/EUR:JCROOK
COMMERCE/BEWT:PHANDLEY
COMMERCE/BIEPR:MMALASHEIRCH
EUR/EE:ISILINS
TREASURY:PMCCARTHY(INFO)
AGRICULTURE:RNEETZ(INFO)
LABOR:FJAMES(INFO)

-----013130 220710Z /11

P R 220156Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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USMTN

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EEWT, ETRD, MTN, RO

SUBJECT:ROMANIAN RECIPROCITY IN THE MTN

REF: GENEVA 05282

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1. WE ARE CURRENTLY DRAFTING A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE
PRESIDENT MAKE THE FINDING AND DETERMINATION REQUIRED BY
SECTION 405(B)(1) OF THE TRADE ACT FOR RENEWAL OF THE
U.S.-ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT THIS SUMMER. WE HOPE TO HAVE
A PACKAGE TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN EARLY MAY.

2. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, FROM ARTICLE I, 3 OF THE

AGREEMENT, DISCUSSION AT THE JOINT COMMISSION WORKING GROUP IN NOVEMBER, AND FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR NICOLAE IN DECEMBER, THAT ROMANIA AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RECIPROCATU U.S. CONCESSIONS IN THE MTN. IN OUR RECOMMENDATION, WE PLAN TO CITE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ROMANIA'S POLICY, AND EXPLAIN THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL IN PROGRESS IN GENEVA AND THAT ROMANIA'S POSSIBLE GAINS FROM U.S. CONCESSIONS ARE STILL UNCLEAR. PETRESCU'S LACK OF SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING RECIPROCITY FOR U.S. CONCESSIONS (REFTEL) CLOUDS THE ROMANIAN POLICY PICTURE SOMEWHAT, AND WE PREFER NOT TO ASK THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE

A DETERMINATION UNTIL IT IS CLEAR.

3. FOR BUCHAREST: TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, PLEASE OBTAIN CONFIRMATION AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT ROMANIA DOES INTEND TO RECIPROCATU OUR MTN CONCESSIONS, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT FULL RECIPROCITY IS NOT REQUIRED GIVEN ROMANIA'S PRESENT STATUS AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. IN MAKING THIS REQUEST, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION WILL BE PUBLIC AND WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE CONGRESS. LACKING ACTUAL CONCESSIONS FROM ROMANIA, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO STATE PUBLICLY OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ROMANIAN POLICY.
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(B) IF IT IS ROMANIA'S INTENTION TO ADHERE TO THE STANDARDS, CUSTOMS VALUATION OR OTHER NON-TARIFF CODES IN THE MTN, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SAY SO.

(C) WHILE WE ARE FLEXIBLE ABOUT THE TIMING OF ANY CONCESSIONS, THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS REGARDING OUR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. A STATEMENT OF ROMANIAN POLICY NOW WILL BE EXAMINED AGAINST ACTUAL ROMANIAN CONCESSIONS WHEN THE U.S.-ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT COMES UP FOR RENEWAL AGAIN IN 1981. IF PETRESCU'S POINT REGARDING THE LIMITED TERM OF THE AGREEMENT (PARAGRAPH 3 REFTL) SHOULD ARISE AGAIN, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO POINT OUT THAT THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE COMMITMENT TO RECIPROCATU MTN CONCESSIONS IN ARTICLE I PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE AGREEMENT IN FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT IT WAS A REQUIREMENT FOR RENEWAL.

(D) WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE AN OFFICIAL ROMANIAN RESPONSE, HOWEVER PRELIMINARY, TO OUR NON-TARIFF REQUESTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN GENEVA, AS URGED BY CULBERT (REFTEL). CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE102880
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HCLARKE:LPP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780172-0353
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780428/aaaaaxco.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 661354a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 5282
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2880507
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN RECIPROCITY IN THE MTN
TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, RO, US, MTN
To: BUCHAREST USMTN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/661354a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014